

Application Serial No.: 10/085,110
Reply to Office Action dated March 6, 2006

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes a new Fig. 5.

Attachment: New Drawings Sheet

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 12, 13, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, and 29-31 are presently active in this case, Claims 29 and 31 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10, 11, 14-16, 18, 19, 22, 25, 27, and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26 have been allowed.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). A new Figure 5 has been added that depicts the features recited in Claim 20. Care has been taken such that no new matter has been entered, as the new drawing merely depicts that which was clearly described in the original written description and claims. Additionally, the specification has been amended to refer to the drawing and to make reference on page 6 to the structure depicted therein, which was disclosed in the original specification.

Furthermore, with regard to the depiction of an outlet oriented parallel to the axis of rotation and having an opening on the same side of the cage as the openings of the two chambers, the Applicant submits that the present drawings depict this structure. The recitation of this "opening" in Claims 1 and 9 is directed to opening (26) of the recess (20), which is clearly depicted in the figures. Any contradictory language in other claims has been removed from the application. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the

objections to the drawings.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Applicant notes the description on page 5, lines 6-8, of the original specification, and the depiction in Figure 3, which clearly depicts opening (26) and conduits (32). Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the application complies with the written description requirement.

Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasui et al. (JP 61-215811). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the anticipatory rejection.

In the Office Action, the Yasui et al. reference is indicated as anticipating each of independent Claims 29 and 31. However, as will be demonstrated below, the Yasui et al. reference clearly does not meet each and every limitation of independent Claims 29 and 31.

Claim 29 recites a cage with a storage space comprising a first closed conduit having an elongated tubular shape, and a second closed conduit having an elongated tubular shape, wherein an end of the first closed conduit opens into the storage space through a first lateral wall and the other end thereof opens into a first chamber, wherein an end of the second closed conduit opens into the storage space through a second lateral wall and the other end thereof opens into a second chamber, and lubricant from the space is supplied to the first and second chambers via each of the closed conduits. The Applicant submits that the Yasui et al. reference fails to disclose all of the above limitations.

The Official Action cites the Yasui et al. reference for the teaching of back notches (24) as the claimed storage space, and small through holes (25) for the teaching of the

claimed first and second closed conduits. Figure 5 of the Yasui et al. reference provides a depiction of the shape of the pocket section (22), the back notches (24), and the small through holes (25). The back notches (24) extend upward within the annular body (21) to an extent at which an upper corner of the back notch (24) abuts the pocket section (22), thereby forming a slit or small through hole (25).

The Applicant submits that the Yasui et al. reference fails to disclose a first closed conduit having an elongated tubular shape, and a second closed conduit having an elongated tubular shape, as recited in Claim 29 (Figure 3 of the present application clearly provides support for such a limitation, in a non-limiting embodiment). The small through holes (25) of the Yasui et al. reference clearly do not have an elongated tubular structure. Instead, the small through holes (25) clearly depicted in Figure 5 of the Yasui et al. reference, are formed by the juncture between an upper corner of the back notch (24) and the pocket section (22), and therefore have a slit shaped configuration.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of independent Claim 29 and Claim 30, which depends from Claim 29.

Claim 31 of the present application recites a cage comprising at least two chambers each having an opening, and means for storing and supplying a lubricant for the rotating elements comprising a storage space having an opening on a same side of the cage as the openings of the at least two chambers. The Applicant submits that the Yasui et al. reference fails to disclose all of the above limitations.

As noted above, the Official Action cites the Yasui et al. reference for the teaching of back notches (24) as the claimed storage space, and pocket sections (22) as the claimed

Application Serial No.: 10/085,110
Reply to Office Action dated March 6, 2006

chambers. The back notches (24) have an opening on end face (21b). Additionally, it is noted that the recessed portions (23) do not have closed conduits extending to two chambers.

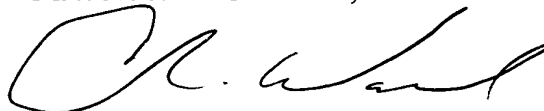
The Applicant submits that the Yasui et al. reference fails to disclose a storage space having an opening on a same side of the cage as the openings of the at least two chambers in addition to the other claimed features, as recited in Claim 31. The back notches (24) of the Yasui et al. reference clearly do not have an opening that is on a same side of any opening of the pocket sections (22).

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of independent Claim 31.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

GJM:CDW:brf

I:\atty\cdw\21xxxx\219493US6X\am2.doc

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367